IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A module, comprising:

a receiver configured to listen for a period of time for ~~an~~ a first incoming pilot signal from a first remote terminal that exceeds a threshold power level; and

a processor configured to operate under control of the first remote terminal if the receiver detects such first incoming pilot signal within the time period, and operate independently of the first remote terminal if such first incoming pilot signal is not detected by the receiver within the time period, such independent operation including enabling a pilot signal transmission.

2.   (Original)   The module of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to establish a communications link with a second remote terminal that acquires the transmitted pilot signal.

3.   (Original)   The module of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to register each of a plurality of second remote terminals that acquire the transmitted pilot signal.

4.   (Original)   The module of claim 3 wherein the processor is further configured to manage the number of terminal registrations.

5.   (Original)   The module of claim 4 wherein the processor is further configured to manage the number of terminal registrations by adjusting the power level of the pilot signal transmission.

6.   (Original)   The module of claim 3 wherein the processor is further configured to receive feedback from each of the registered terminals and designate one or more of the registered terminals to support communications with unregistered terminals based on the feedback.

7.   (Original)   The module of claim 6 wherein the feedback provided by each of the registered terminals is an indicator of the transmitted pilot signal strength measured at its respective registered terminals.

8.   (Original)   The module of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to receive a request to communicate from an unregistered terminal and assign one of the registered terminals to communicate with the unregistered terminal.

9.   (Currently Amended) The module of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to set the threshold power level as a function of a minimum data rate that can be supported with the first remote terminal.

10.   (Currently Amended) The module of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to register with the first remote terminal if the receiver detects such first incoming pilot signal within the time period.

11.   (Original)   The module of claim 10 wherein the receiver is further configured to listen for a second incoming pilot signal from a second remote terminal not registered with the remote terminal, and wherein the processor is further configured to establish a communications link with the second remote terminal if the receiver detects the second incoming pilot signal.

12.   (Original)   The module of claim 11 wherein the processor is further configured to schedule the receiver to listen for the second incoming pilot signal under control of the remote terminal.

13.   (Original)   The module of claim 10 wherein the processor is further configured to establish a communications link with a second remote terminal not registered with the remote terminal under direction of the remote terminal.

14.   (Original)   The module of claim 1 wherein the period of time the receiver listens for such incoming pilot signal is a function of the capabilities of the module.

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15.   (Currently Amended) A method of communications, comprising:

listening for a period of time for an incoming pilot signal from a <u>first</u> remote terminal that exceeds a threshold power level for the purpose of acquiring such incoming pilot signal and operating under control of the <u>first</u> remote terminal;

determining that such incoming pilot signal has not been acquired within the time period; and

operating independently of the <u>first</u> remote terminal <u>after determining that such incoming pilot signal has not been acquired within the time period</u>, such independent operation including transmitting a pilot signal.

16.   (Original)   The method of claim 15 further comprising establishing a communications link with a second remote terminal.

17.   (Original)   The method of claim 15 further comprising registering each of a plurality of second terminals.

18.   (Original)   The method of claim 17 further comprising managing the number of terminal registrations.

19.   (Original)   The method of claim 18 wherein the management of the number of terminal registrations comprises adjusting the power level of the transmitted pilot signal.

20.   (Original)   The method of claim 17 further comprising receiving feedback from each of the registered terminals and designating one or more of the registered terminals as edge terminals to support communications with unregistered terminals based on the feedback.

21.   (Original)   The method of claim 20 wherein the feedback provided by each of the registered second terminals is an indicator of the pilot signal strength measured at its respective registered terminal.

22.   (Original)   The method of claim 15 further comprising receiving a request to communicate from an unregistered terminal and assigning one of the registered terminals to communicate with the unregistered terminal.

23.   (Currently Amended) A module, comprising:

means for listening for a period of time for an incoming pilot signal from a <u>first</u> remote terminal that exceeds a threshold power level;

means for operating under control of the <u>first</u> remote terminal if such incoming pilot signal is detected within the time period; and

means for operating independently of the <u>first</u> remote terminal if such incoming pilot signal is not detected within the time period, such independent operation including enabling a pilot signal transmission.

24.   (Original)   The module of claim 23 further comprising means for registering a plurality of second remote terminals that acquire the transmitted pilot signal.

25.   (Original)   The module of claim 24 further comprising means for managing the number of terminal registrations by adjusting the power level of the pilot signal transmission.

26.   (Original)   The module of claim 23 further comprising means for setting the threshold power level as a function of a minimum data rate that can be supported with the remote terminal.

27.   (Currently Amended) Computer readable <u>medium</u> ~~media~~ embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer program to perform ~~a method of~~ communications, the ~~method~~ <u>instructions</u> comprising:

listening for a period of time for an incoming pilot signal from a <u>first</u> remote terminal that exceeds a threshold power level for the purpose of acquiring such incoming pilot and operating under control of the <u>first</u> remote terminal;

determining that such incoming pilot signal has not been acquired within the time period; and

operating independently of the <u>first</u> remote terminal <u>after determining that such incoming pilot signal has not been acquired within the time period</u>, such independent operation including transmitting a pilot signal.

28.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable <u>medium</u> ~~media~~ of claim 27 wherein the ~~method~~ <u>instructions</u> further comprises registering with a plurality of second remote terminals that acquire the transmitted pilot signal

29.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable <u>medium</u> ~~media~~ of claim 28 wherein the ~~method~~ <u>instructions</u> further comprises managing the number of terminal registrations by adjusting the power level of the pilot signal transmission.

30.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable <u>medium</u> ~~media~~ of claim 27 wherein the ~~method~~ <u>instructions</u> further comprises setting the threshold power level as a function of a minimum data rate that can be supported with the <u>first</u> remote terminal.

31.   (Currently Amended) A method of communications, comprising:

listening for a period of time to acquire an incoming pilot signal from a <u>first</u> remote terminal;

determining that such incoming pilot signal has been acquired within the time period;

exchanging signaling messages with the <u>first</u> remote terminal once such incoming pilot signal has been acquired;

enabling a pilot signal transmission for the purpose of operating independently of the <u>first</u> remote terminal; and

registering a plurality of second remote terminals that acquire the transmitted pilot signal, the second remote terminals being previously registered with the <u>first</u> remote terminal prior to the exchange of signaling messages.

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32. (Currently Amended) A module ~~method of communications~~, comprising:

a receiver configured to listen for a period of time to acquire an incoming pilot signal from a first remote terminal; and

a processor configured to acquire such incoming signal if the receiver detects such incoming pilot signal within the time period, exchange signaling messages with the first remote terminal once such incoming pilot signal has been acquired, enable a pilot signal transmission for the purpose of operating independently of the first remote terminal, and register a plurality of second remote terminals that acquire the transmitted pilot signal, the second remote terminals being previously registered with the first remote terminal prior to the exchange of signaling messages.